

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08

CEA-02 MC-02 ACDA-19 GAC-01 RSR-01 /162 W
----- 003819

O R 211515 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3912

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 4680

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (P A R A 9)

TEHRAN FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH, ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO
AND AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION OF DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT

SUMMARY: MEDIA GAVE WIDE, GENERALLY FACTUAL, AND FAIR REPORTING
TO DEPSEC RUSH'S VISIT TO NEW DELHI. PROMINENTLY REPORTED
MUTUAL DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS, HOPES FOR PEACE IN SUB-
CONTINENT AND COMING TALKS ON SOLUTION OF AMERICAN RUPEE HOLDINGS.
CONGRESS PARTY RESOLUTION RELEASED APRIL 20 SIGNALLED WARMING
ATMOSPHERE BY DROPPING ATTACK ON " FOREIGN INTERVENTION"
ORIGINALLY PLANNED. END SUMMARY.

1. APRIL 21 MEDIA COVERAGE OF RUSH/ SISCO VISIT PROMINENT,
SUBSTANTIAL. ALL INDIA RADIO BULLETINS USED VISIT AS LEAD. TV
USED AS LEAD ON 8 PM HINDI NEWS AND SECOND LEAD ON 9:45 PM
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ENGLISH NEWS, APRIL 20. DELHI PRESS PROMINENTLY FRONT-PAGED WIRE SERVICE OR OWN CORRESPONDENT STORIES GIVING FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF MR. RUSH'S REMARKS TO NEWSMEN AFTER MEETING PM GANDHI, FOREIGN MINISTER SINGH AND FINANCE MINISTER CHAVAN. MAJORITY CARRYING PHOLA.

2. PRESS PLAY CENTERS OUTSIDE DELHI GENERALLY THE SAME, WITH SEVERAL BOMBAY DAILIES USING STORY AS LEAD. HEADLINES MAINLY STRESSED MR. RUSH'S OPTIMISM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN INDO-US RELATIONS.

3. MR. RUSH WAS REPORTED AS HAVING SAID IN NEW DELHI HE WAS CONVINCED INDIA IS JUST AS ANXIOUS TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS AS US; HIS TALKS WITH MRS. GANDHI AND FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH WERE IN HIS VIEW WIDE-RANGING, CONSTRUCTIVE AND USEFUL; WITH FINANCE MINISTER MR. CHAVAN THE REPORTING CENTERED ON DISPOSITION OF THE RUPEE FUNDS.

4. MR. RUSH WAS REPORTED AS HAVING TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE US WAS ANXIOUS TO SEE RECONCILIATION AND MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION BEING ACHIEVED IN THE AREA BUT THE US WOULD NOT INTERVENE IN THE PROCESS.

5. MR. RUSH REPORTEDLY ADMITTED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND US HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT STRAINED, SAYING IT WAS IN MUTUAL INTEREST TO IMPROVE THEM BUT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ANYTHING DRAMATIC BECAUSE "WE HAVE NO BASIC DIFFERENCES."

6. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION MR. RUSH WAS REPORTED HAVING EXPLAINED THAT THE ISSUE OF SUPPLY OF ARMS BY US TO PAKISTAN WAS "GROSSLY EXAGGERATED" AS "WE HAVE SUPPLIED ONLY SMALL QUANTITIES OF SPARES AND SOME 300 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS. SINCE 1965 WE HAVE SUPPLIED A TOTAL OF DOLS 100 MILLION WORTH OF ARMS TO THIS AREA. RUSSIA HAS SUPPLIED EIGHT TIMES AS MUCH TO INDIA. FRANCE AND BRITAIN HAVE SUPPLIED MUCH LARGER QUANTITIES. SINCE 1967 NO LETHAL WEAPON WAS SUPPLIED TO EITHER OF THE PARTIES." EVEN THE COMMUNIST-LINING PATRIOT CARRIED THIS STATEMENT ON ARMS.

7. EARLIER ON ARRIVAL MR. RUSH WAS STATED TO HAVE SAID IN HIS "PREPARED STATEMENT" THAT HE HAD COME WITH NO PREPARED AGENDA OR BRIEF BUT SIMPLY WITH THE HOPE OF MAKING THE PROCESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS FULL, FRANK,

AND EFFECTIVE AS POSSIBLE.

8. MANY ACCOUNTS, INCLUDING THAT OF UNITED NEWS OF INDIA, SAID MR. RUSH STATED HE HAD BROUGHT A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NIXON TO MRS. GANDHI, BUT DECLINED TO DISCUSS ITS CONTENTS.

9. AT THE KATHMANDU PRESS CONFERENCE, REPORTED ON INSIDE PAGES SEVERAL PAPERS, MR. RUSH REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT INDIAN PRESS REPORTS THAT THE US WAS TRYING TO SET UP A NEW IRAN- PAKISTAN AXIS AS A COUNTERVAILING POWER AGAINST INDIA. MR. RUSH WAS QUOTED AS SAYING INDIA, IRAN WERE BOTH GOOD FRIENDS OF US. HE HOPED INDO- US RELATIONS WOULD FURTHER IMPROVE AND ANY IDEA THAT US WAS PROMOTING RIVALRY BETWEEN ASIA COUNTRIES WAS WRONG BECAUSE AIM WAS PEACE AND NOT ARMED CONFLICT.

10. ABOUT PAK POWS IN INDIA MR. RUSH REPORTEDLY SAID " US HOPES INDIA, PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH WILL GO FORWARD IN REACHING AGREEMENT, ACCOMODATION AND RECONCILIATION

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O R 211555 Z APR 73

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11. STORIES ABOUT ANTI- US DEMONSTRATIONS OUTSIDE US EMBASSY

IN NEW DELHI WERE GENERALLY BRIEF. DEMONSTRATORS WHO PRESENTED A MEMORANDUM AT THE EMBASSY WERE SAID TO HAVE RESENTED US ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN AND ALLEGED US "INTERFERENCE" IN THE SUBCONTINENT.

12. ALLUDING TO MR. RUSH'S REPORTED REMARKS AT DACCA, RIGHTIST PUNJABI DAILY JATHEDAR PUBLISHED IN JULLUNDUR AND NEW DELHI COMMENTED " THE DEFENSE THAT US ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN WILL NOT HINDER LASTING PEACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT" WILL NOT " FOOL" ANYONE. JATHEDAR ADDED " BUT FOR US ARMS SUPPLIED TO PAKISTAN THE 1965 AND 1971 INDO- PAK CONFLICTS WOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN PLACE."

13. THE GOVERNMENT- CONTROLLED ALL INDIA RADIO GAVE SUBSTANTIAL COVERAGE TO THE VISIT IN ALL ITS NEWS BULLETINS FROM THE TIME OF THE ARRIVAL OF RUSH AND MR. SISCO, GENERALLY AS LEAD. RADIO NEWS COVERAGE WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE PRESS.

14. THE GOVERNMENT - CONTROLLED TV USED FOOTAGE ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARRIVAL OF MR. RUSH AND MR. SISCO AND OF THEIR MEETING WITH THE PM AND OTHER INDIAN LEADERS. THE 8 PM HINDI NEWS LED WITH TH

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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To: NEA
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